

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 30 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 8, 11, 18, 21, and 28 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Arai (2001/0026278A1) in view of Pallister (2002/0101421). As shown above, Applicants have amended the claims to define the invention with greater clarity. In view of these clarifications, reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 defines a method of modifying a three-dimensional model having three-dimensional data defining bones and a polygon mesh. The method of claim 1 includes reducing a resolution of the polygon mesh, reducing a number of bones in the three-dimensional model following reducing the resolution of the polygon mesh, and associating vertices of the polygon mesh having a reduced resolution with bones after the number of bones in the three-dimensional model has been reduced.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of claim 1, particularly with respect to associating vertices of a polygon mesh having a reduced resolution with bones after a number of bones has been reduced.

In this regard, as noted in the rejection of claim 8, in paragraphs 57 to 59, Arai discloses removing skeletons for which there are no dependent polygon vertices. Once Arai removes such skeletons, all that will be left is skeletons having polygon vertices. As such, Arai would not need to (nor does it) associate polygon vertices with bones following bone reduction. Stated otherwise, since Arai will only be left with skeletons for which there are already polygon

vertices, associations will already exist between the vertices and the skeletons, making further associations unnecessary.

Pallister, which was cited for its disclosure of reducing a polygon mesh, does not mention bones, much less associating vertices with bones. Thus, even if Arai were combined with Pallister, the resulting hypothetical combination would still fail to disclose or to suggest the invention of claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 11 and 21 roughly correspond to claim 1. Accordingly claims 11 and 21 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Amended independent claim 8 defines a method of modifying a three-dimensional model having three-dimensional data defining a polygon mesh. The method includes constructing a bones infrastructure for the polygon mesh, removing edges of polygons in the polygon mesh to reduce a resolution of the polygon mesh, receiving an instruction to reduce a number of bones in the bones infrastructure, reducing the number of bones in the bones infrastructure in response to the instruction following reducing the resolution of the polygon mesh, and associating vertices of the polygon mesh having a reduced resolution with the bones infrastructure having a reduced number of bones.

As explained above with respect to claim 1, Arai does not associate polygon vertices with bones following bone reduction, and Pallister does not make up for this deficiency of Arai. Accordingly, claim 8 is also believed to be allowable.

Claims 18 and 28 roughly correspond to claim 8. Accordingly claims 18 and 28 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 8.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

No fee is believed to be due for this Amendment; however, if any fees or credits are due, please apply them to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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